City of Las Vegas

Consumer Confidence Report

How can I get involved?

Where does my water come from?

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

WATER

CITY OF LAS VEGAS' REPORT ON THE WATER WE DRINK

2012

What We Do

The Utilities Department provides adequate, reliable and high quality water, sewer, natural gas and solid waste services in an open, responsible, environmentally sound manner at the lowest practical cost.
The City of Las Vegas Water System has approximately 6900 residential and commercial accounts.
As mandated by the Safe Drinking Water Act, this Consumer Confidence Report informs all City water users on our water sources, results of water tests and other important information.

Water Conservation

Stage IV water usage restrictions, which continue, consists of no outdoor water use, vehicle washing, lawn watering, filling swimming pools, etc. (note: there are some exceptions).
The City does have an Emergency Action Plan prepared in case of severe water shortage situations, which includes more severe water restrictions that progress from Stage 5 thru 10. The implementation of water shortage stages is based on the percentage of remaining water storage levels available.

Your Water is Safe

Our Water Exceeds Drinking Water Standards and is safe to drink.
Last year we conducted tests for over 80 contaminants and only 9 were above detection levels. Flushing the distribution system reduced the level of those contaminants below the level EPA allows. Disinfection By-Products average over the entire year were below MCL.

For more information contact:
Don W. Cole,
Water System Manager, City of Las Vegas,
905 12th Street, Las Vegas, NM 87701
(505) 429-6326

Where does my water come from?

Our water source is primarily surface water drawn from the Gallinas River and stored in Peterson and Bradner Reservoirs as well as Storrie Lake. Groundwater is utilized through the City of Las Vegas Taylor Well Field.

Source Water Assessment and its Availability

A Source Water Assessment has been performed by the New Mexico Environment Department. That information is available to the consumer upon request at NMED (877) 654-8720

Water Saving Tips

- Take short showers. 5 minute shower uses 4 to 5 gallons of water; a bath uses up to 50 Gallons.
- Shut off water while brushing teeth, washing hair and shaving to save up to 500 gallons per month.
- City customers can pick up low-flow water saving kits that are easy to install, and can save up to 750 gallons per month.
- Using your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full can save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- Fix leaky toilets and faucets. The City offers up to a $100 rebate on high efficiency toilet replacement for residential customers and free high efficiency toilets to income qualifying customers. Fixing it or replacing it with a new, more efficient model can save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
- The City offers rain barrels for $58.
- Teach your kids about water conservation to ensure a future generation that uses water wisely. Make it a family effort to reduce next month's water bill!
- Visit the EPA's website www.epa.gov/watersense
- For more information contact the Utilities Department at (505) 454-3832.

We are pleased to present the Year's Annual Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). This report is designed to provide details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by the regulatory agencies. This report is a snapshot of last year's water quality. We are committed to providing you with information because informed customers are our best allies.

Español

Este Informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre la calidad de su aqua potable. Por favor lea este informe o comuniquese con alguien que pueda traducer la informacion.

Additional information for lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from minerals and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Las Vegas is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure to lead is available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791, or at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Why are there contaminants in my drinking water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791.

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Examples include microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems; and radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Do I need to take special precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorder, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The EPA and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED

- The Las Vegas City Council meets regularly. Information on meeting dates is available through the City Clerkôs Office at (505) 454-1401
- City utility customers can pick up low flow water saving kits at 905 12th street. They are easy to install and can save up to 750 gallons a month
- The City offers up to a $100 rebate on high efficiency toilets to income qualifying residential customers.
- The City offers rain barrels to customers at $58 each. Available at 905 12th Street.
- For more information on Las Vegasôconservation programs please feel free to contact the cityôs conservation specialist at (505) 454-3832

Water Quality Data Table

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of contaminants in water provided by public water systems .The table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that we detected during the calendar year of this report. Although many more contaminants were tested, only those substances listed below were found in your water. All sources of drinking water contain some naturally occurring contaminants. At low levels, these substances are generally not harmful in out drinking water. Removing all contaminants would be extremely expensive, and in most cases, would not provide increased protection of public health. A few naturally occurring minerals may actually improve the taste of drinking water and have nutritional value at low levels. Unless otherwise noted the data presented in this table is from testing done in the calendar year of the report. The EPA or the State requires us to monitor for certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not vary significantly from year to year or the system is not considered vulnerable to this type of contamination. As such, some of the data, though representative, may be more than one year old. In this table you will find terms and abbreviations that might not be familiar to you. To help you better understand these terms, we have provided the definitions below the table.

Consumer Confidence Report: 2012 Drinking Water Quality Data

Contaminants	MCLG or MRDLG	MCL, TT or MRDL	Your Water	Range		Sample		Typical Source
				Low	High	Date	Violation	
Disinfection & Disinfection By-Products (There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial population)								
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) (ppb)	N/A	60	35	7.00	68.00	2012	No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHMs [Total Trihalomethanes] (ppb)	N/A	80	48	18.00	101.00	2012	No	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Inorganic Contaminants								
Barium (ppm)	2	2	0.057	0.056	0.057	2011	No	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride (ppm)	4	4	0.45	0.41	0.49	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Arsenic (ppb)	0	10	2.1	ND	2.1	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production washes
Selenium (ppb)	50	50	3.9	ND	3.9	2011	No	Discharge from petroleum and metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits; Discharge from mines
Sodium (optional) (ppm)	N/A	MPL	54	19.00	89.00	2011	No	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching
Microbiological Contaminants								
Turbidity (NTU)	N/A	0.3	...	N/A	N/A	2012	No	Soil Runoff
100% of the samples were below the TT Value of 0.3. A value less than 95% constitutes a TT violation. The highest single measurement was 0.077. Any measurement in excess of 1 is a violation unless approved by the state.								
Radioactive Contaminants								
Alpha emitters (pCi/L)	0	15	6.4	4.00	6.40	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Uranium (ug/L)	0	30	3.7	3.70	3.70	2009	No	Erosion of natural deposits

Inorganic Contaminants							
Contaminants	MCLG	AL	Your Water	Sample Date	# Samples exceeding AL	Exceeds AL	Typical Source
Copper - action level at consumer taps (ppm)	1.3	1.3	0.11	2011	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead - action level at consumer taps (ppb)	0	15	2.7	2011	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

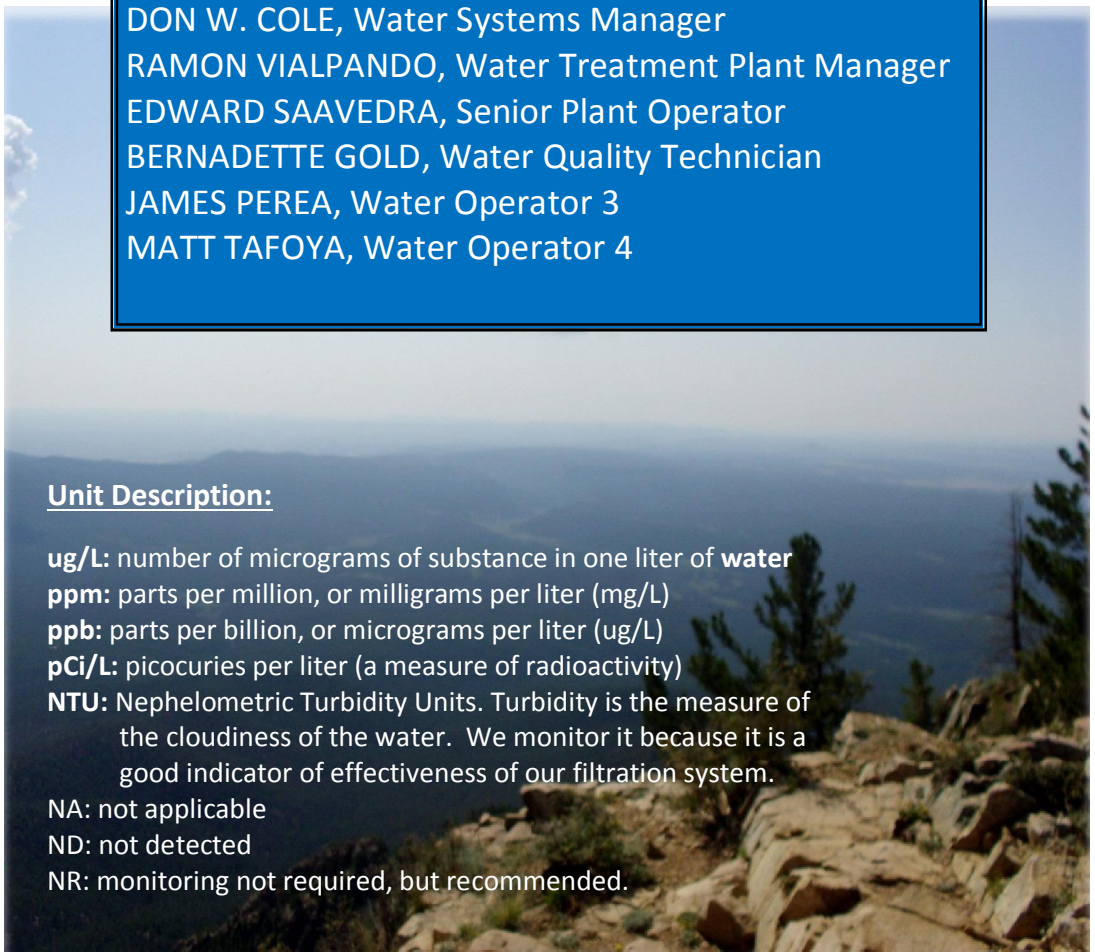
Important Drinking Water Definitions:

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level – the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
TT: Treatment technique – a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
AL: Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant which, I exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
Variances and Exemptions: State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.
MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfection Level Goal – the level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectant to control microbial contaminants.
MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
MNR: Monitored Not Regulated;
MPL: State Assigned Maximum Permissible Level

Thank you!

The City of Las Vegas' Water Department personnel would like to thank the community for their efforts to conserve water. Thank you for your continued support in conserving our precious resource.

KENNETH L. GARCIA, Utilities Director
DON W. COLE, Water Systems Manager
RAMON VIALPANDO, Water Treatment Plant Manager
EDWARD SAAVEDRA, Senior Plant Operator
BERNADETTE GOLD, Water Quality Technician
JAMES PEREA, Water Operator 3
MATT TAFOYA, Water Operator 4



Unit Description:

ug/L: number of micrograms of substance in one liter of **water**
ppm: parts per million, or milligrams per liter (mg/L)
ppb: parts per billion, or micrograms per liter (ug/L)
pCi/L: picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. Turbidity is the measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of effectiveness of our filtration system.
NA: not applicable
ND: not detected
NR: monitoring not required, but recommended.